

Thank you for your time and interest, my name is Kimberly Henrikson, and I am the Executive Director at the Center for Contemporary Printmaking (CCP), founded in Norwalk in 1995 and the only non-profit, publicly accessible fine art printmaking facility of its kind between New York and Boston with highly-respected museum quality exhibitions, an artist residency program, and diverse instructional workshop opportunities.

We were recently awarded a grant from CT Humanities, the CT Cultural Fund Operating Support Grant, and I wish to express my sincerest thanks to the members of the Connecticut State Legislature for providing the funding to the Connecticut DECD and Connecticut Office of the Arts such that CT Humanities could make this award possible for our organization and others like us through the state. We were one of 624 organizations in the state or 111 in coastal Fairfield County, or 1 in 149 in Fairfield County as a whole to receive these important grants.

Receiving this award is AMAZING and strengthens the foundation for our organization, not only during such an unsettling time as we have been experiencing these past two years, but such funding helps to maintain the programs and partnerships we have developed and allows us to expand into new projects within our community. This spring CCP will be working with other Norwalk-based non-profit organizations on a newly designed project called Press Out Hate during which we will host printmaking sessions for members of these groups, culminating in a public exhibition, open house, and hands-on printmaking event here in May. Art-making cultivates new and different ways of expressing oneself, communicating needs and experiences to others, and can amplify marginalized voices. Printmaking historically has provided a platform for creating and distributing messages broadly into the public sphere, and at CCP, we encourage everyone to both speak and to listen.

As I'm sure many of the organizations receiving these funds can attest, we don't do what we do to turn a profit, we do what we do to enrich the lives of the people in our community, often at low or no cost. Operational funding like this ensures that we can exist, paying our Eversource bills - or maintenance costs - or wages for a dedicated and skilled group of staff. Our organizations may be non-profits in the arts and culture sector, but we staff the same sorts of roles that one would find within so many other types of organizations: skilled technicians, facilities and operations roles, office management, communications, they are all critical to the services we provide in our community and we could not function without them.

Again, I am grateful these funds were made available and that such commitment exists for us here in our state. We are appreciative of any and all efforts made in support of non-profits doing work in the arts and humanities. It enriches all of our life experiences and expands knowledge and cultural appreciation throughout our city, state, and broader region.

Kimberly Henrikson  
Executive Director  
Center for Contemporary Printmaking